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TELEGRAM

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SY-05 SSO-00 SS-15 NSCE-00
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00 PA-01 ICAE-00 SP-02
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O R 241153Z FEB 79
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2419
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 1403

CINCPAC: FOR POLAD

E.O. 12065: GDS 2-20-85 (FLATIN, BRUCE A.) OR-M
TAGS: ASEC, PINS, PEPR, AF, US
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S ABDUCTION CREATES TURMOIL IN KABUL ON
FEBRUARY 14

REF: KABUL 1098 AND PREVIOUS

1. (C- ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. ACCORDING TO REPORTS REACHING THE EMBASSY, THE MORNING OF
FEBRUARY 14 (THE DAY OF THE AMBASSADOR'S ABDUCTION AND SHOOTING)
WAS VERY HECTIC IN KABUL. RUMORS THAT SOMETHING WAS AFOOT CAUSED
SOME SHOPKEEPERS IN THE BAZAAR TO CLOSE DOWN EARLY IN THE DAY.
THERE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN A BELIEF, SHARED BY MANY AFGHAN
CITIZENS AND SOME KHALOIS, THAT A MILITARY COUP WAS IMPENDING.
THE ACTIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT IN STOPPING CARS AND SEARCHING
THEM IN THE AREA OF THE KABUL HOTEL FOR WEAPONS POSSIBLY
INCREASED THE FEELING OF CONCERN. THE GOVERNMENT INDICATED ITS
NERVOUSNESS WHEN IT PUT MACHINE GUNS IN PLACE AT THE MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS AROUND 12:00 P.M. WE HEARD THAT SOME KHALOIS

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THREW AWAY THEIR RED KHAKI BOOTES, AND SHAKED OFF THEIR DROOPING

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MUSTACHES, AND AFFECTATION OF MANY MACHO PARTY MEMBERS.

3. COMMENT: THESE REPORTS PROBABLY HAD THEIR ORIGIN IN THE EVENTS AT THE KABUL HOTEL, AND ARE AN INDICATION THAT, AT LEAST IN THE MINDS OF MANY IN KABUL, THE KHALQI GOVERNMENT IS NOT FIRMLY ENTRENCHED.
AMSTUTZ

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